

# THE AIRLIFT

# CHRONICLE



GEORGIA  
**AIR** NATIONAL  
GUARD





# FLIGHT BRIEF

JAN.  
2017

## LETTER FROM CHIEF JENKINS

Being prepared for opportunities.

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## OPERATION MANGUSTA

The 165th Airlift Wing deployed to Italy in support of Operation Mangusta.

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## GUARD DAWG FEATURE

An Air National Guard career helps Senior Airman Drew Roberts follow his goal of traveling the world.

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## BREAKING GROUND

The 165th AW hosted the ground breaking ceremony for the new Squadron Operations building!

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## ON THE COVER

Senior Airman Drew Roberts poses for the cover of the Airlift Chronicle before marshaling a 165th Airlift Wing C-130 during Operation Mangusta, near Pisa, Italy (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Airman Brandon Patterson)

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PHOTOGRAPH BY SENIOR AIRMAN BRANDON PATTERSON

From the Office of the 165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Command Chief

## CMSGT RODNEY JENKINS



18 January 2017

As the 165th Airlift Wing Command Chief, I am especially honored to serve the outstanding members of the Georgia Air Guard. I appreciate the sacrifices you and your families make to enable us, to complete the mission. Every Airman in the 165 AW, 117 ACS, 224 JCSS, and 165 ASOS are integral parts of our organization. The standard should be nothing less than our core values as well as lines 17 and 18 of our creed, "I will not falter and I will not fail". In today's Air Guard, you must be motivated, determined, and prepared. Each of you have the chance to be a part of something greater than yourself. We grow and gain strength through each other and develop a sense of team. A vital part of being an exceptional Airman is continuously working on your force development, and always be prepared when opportunity knocks. Lack of preparation may result in you missing opportunities for advancement and career growth, which could leave our organization in an unacceptable readiness state.

Always be prepared for any and all opportunities for advancement and growth. Within the Air Guard the opportunities for advancement are limitless. We have an opportunity to grow and move forward, as well as help the organization execute the State's Top 3 priorities; Mission Readiness, Future Initiatives, and Force Development. This creates a win-win for the organization and you. Remember, the mission of The Georgia Air Guard is to provide highly motivated, mission-ready forces for employment by the Governor of Georgia and the United States Department of Defense. The vision is to develop top-tier Air Guard Airmen and units to protect our nation across the full spectrum of conflict and protect its citizens from natural and man-made disasters. Finally, the core values; Integrity First: Do what is right – always; Service before Self: Place professional duties above personal desires; Excellence in All We Do: Develop a sustained passion for improvement and innovation. Bottom line, you cannot be getting ready, we must always be ready!

Take ownership of your future. Make sure you have accomplished your required Professional Military Education (PME)/Air Force Specialty Skill (AFSC) levels in a timely manner, maintain your fitness, and be medically viable to meet the mission. Then take time to mentor and grow leaders of the future through effective mentorship. Good leadership cannot and will not be achieved through complacency. You must be prepared should the door of opportunity knocks. We owe it to our organization. You must do everything in your power to make this happen. I charge each of you to take ownership and be the master of your future.

RODNEY JENKINS, CMSgt, GA ANG  
Command Chief Master Sergeant



# OPERATION MANGUSTA

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY: Senior Airman Brandon Patterson**

PISA, Italy -- Nov. 16 more than 30 Airmen from the 165th Airlift Wing were deployed to Pisa, Italy. They were tasked with conducting airdrops of U.S. and coalition forces to bolster joint readiness.

The units who participated in the airdrops were U.S. Air Force

165th Airlift Wing, U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Italian Air Force 46 Brigade Aeronautica, Italian Army Folgore Brigade, French Army 11th Airborne Brigade, and Dutch Army 11th Air Assault Brigade.

Operation Mangusta is a multinational operation to train coalition forces to maintain joint readiness while building interoperability with NATO forces.



“Participating in Operation Mangusta with the Italian Air Force as our host and counterpart serves as proof of the interoperability of a multinational, joint task force,” said Capt. Seth Adler, a C-130 navigator with the 165th AW and mission commander.

“Once the language barrier was overcome, the similarities in our training made working with the Italian, French and Dutch armies extremely easy. We look forward to participating again.”

In preparation to deploy, unit members attended a training on cross-cultural awareness, inter-cultural communication and career specific training.

[ PHOTOS CONTINUED PG. 6 ]





# SAVANNAH AIRMAN TAKES ON ITALY

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY: Senior Airman Brandon Patterson**

“From a young age, I’ve been fascinated by and have had a love for airplanes and flying,” said Senior Airman Drew Roberts. “When I graduated from high school I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, but one day I drove past the flight line on base and thought it would be cool to serve in the military. As a result, I pursued joining and learning more about the job opportunities in the Georgia Air National Guard.”



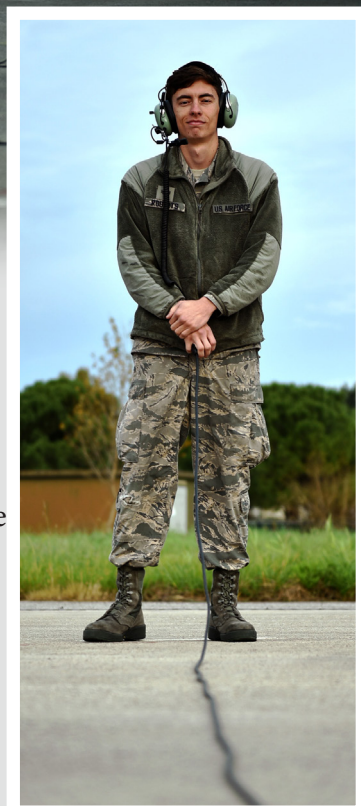
Senior Airman Drew Roberts, a flight line crew chief with the 165th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, has been in the Air Guard for three years. In November, he was sent to Pisa, Italy, along with 32 other Airmen

from the 165th Airlift Wing for a temporary duty. For Drew, this was not only his first time to Italy, but also his first time traveling abroad.

“I was very excited for the opportunity to go on this TDY,” said Roberts. “Most of all, I wanted the to experience the Italian culture and to meet new people. I was born in the Mobile, Ala. and raised in Savannah, Georgia, so I have only lived in the south. Getting to know about other cultures is important to me.”

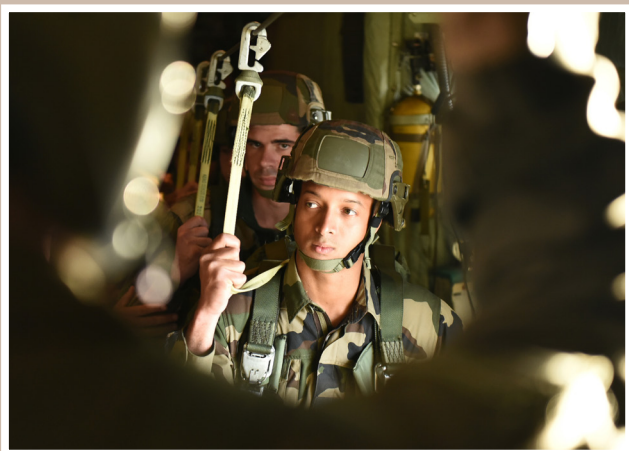
If pizza can be considered culture, Drew definitely experienced plenty of that. His coworkers jokingly say they didn’t see Drew without pizza in his hand the entire TDY.

“I like people, and I like helping people,” said Roberts. “On the civilian side, I work in retail, and customer



**[ CONTINUED PG. 6 ]**

## OPERATION MANGUSTA



Airmen from the 165th Airlift Wing, Savannah, Ga., conduct an airdrop of American, Italian, French, and Dutch paratroopers over Pisa, Italy, on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, 2016.

The multilateral training focuses on maintaining joint readiness while building interoperability with NATO forces. (U.S. Air National Guard photos by Senior Airman Brandon Patterson)

### [ CONTINUED: SAVANNAH AIRMAN TAKES ON ITALY ]

service is the main aspect of the job. I plan to finish my bachelors degree and hope to become a pilot in the GA ANG. My military experience has helped me to better organize my priorities and to hone my leadership skills, which has been an asset in all areas of my life.”

In spite of carrying a slender build, Drew has commanding and infectious presence in any room. When he interacts with his coworkers, it’s apparent he seeks to understand, and he truly cares and is interested in them.

“I’m fortunate, I have a lot of great mentors around me in the Air Guard,” said Roberts. “Even though I have great supervisors, I wouldn’t say that I have just one mentor. I try to learn from all those around me, and I try to absorb the good aspects of their character and leadership.”

Being in the Air Guard has given Drew opportunities that he might not have experienced otherwise.

“What I liked most about the Air Guard is that I was able to choose what job I wanted and that was working with airplanes, and I was able to choose where I wanted to live,” said Roberts. For those considering joining, I’d say weigh your options. My experience so far has been a very good one. I work with some awesome people who have excellent work ethic, and I’m learning so much about leadership. I look forward future opportunities to serve and to deploy.”

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# BREAKING GROUND

STORY BY: 1st. Lt. Jeffrey Bezore

PHOTOS BY: Tech. Sgt. Amber Williams

The 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard, held a ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2017 at the Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport. The ceremony celebrated the construction



of the unit's new Squadron Operation Building as well as the completion of the unit's new ramp project.

The \$8.5 million construction project will be a state of the art 24,000 square foot facility that will be the standard for other C-130 Squadron Operation facilities in the Air National Guard.

"It just means that our Airmen are going to be able to come to work in a professional building worthy of their efforts," said Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard, Adjutant General, Georgia National Guard. "And they're moving out of a 1950-era building



The Adjutant General for the Georgia National Guard Brig. Gen. Joe Jarrard speaks to the audience during the ground breaking ceremony for the new Squadron Operations Building at the 165th Airlift Wing, Jan. 4, 2017. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amber Williams)

that is way past its life."

The unit completed a \$14 million ramp construction project in June, which covered a 23-acre area at the Savannah-Hilton Head IAP. This nine-month project brought the ramp up to higher standards as well as increase its energy standards.

"Longevity wise, it keeps the mission going for a long time," said Col. Gomez, Wing Commander 165th AW. "It keeps us here in Savannah."

The building is expected to be completed in December.



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